, A HE - 1984

S-88/AO

Memorandum for Chairman, Critical Collection Problems Committee

SUBJECT (U) Intelligence Collection on Chinese Communist Military Forces

1. References:

- a. DIAAQ Memorandum, S-50/AQ of 2 March 1964, to Chairman, Critical Collection Problems Committee.
- b. Memorandum from Chairman, Critical Collection Problems Committee, same subject, dated 30 March 1964.
 - c. Quarterly Supplement to DCID No. 1/3, 2 April 1964.
- 2. In reference a, the Chairman, Critical Collection Problems Committee was requested to have the CCPC "consider any actions which might be taken to improve intelligence collection by collateral resources" regarding significant gaps in intelligence holdings on the Chinese Communist military forces. The reply from the Chairman, CCPC, reference b, noted that four of the six areas of activity on which Department of Defense seeks additional information seemed to be adequately covered in the IPC list of 27 September 1963 as prepared by the Interagency Clandestine Collection Priorities Committee and asked if the priority accorded these requirements in the IPC list reflected their importance to the Department of Defense.
- 3. The mounting concern of USIB about Chinese Communist intentions and military strengths is reflected in the most recent (3 April 1964) Quarterly Supplement to DCID No. 1/3, reference c, in which it is stated that "there is an increased urgency for intelligence regarding Chinese Communist and North Vietnamese intentions and actions concerning South Vietnam, their military strengths and weaknesses, and support of guerrilla forces in South Vietnam." This USIB priority of the requirement for information on Chinese Communist forces in conjunction with that of the IPC list provides adequate justification for a priority collection effort. However, as noted in reference a, difficulties inherent in collecting information

to satisfy these requirements are sufficiently formidable to constitute a critical collection problem. It was on this account that the JCS had DIA apprise the CCPC of the collection problems, particularly that of clandestine sources, with a view toward focusing the attention of the USIB members and USIB itself on the military intelligence gaps on Communist China.

- 4. Since completion of the study for the JCS cited in reference a, new intelligence information has been obtained and new collection potentials have arisen which make consideration by the CCPC of the Chinese Communist military problem even more significant. USIB approval of CCPC collection recommendations, especially those which might be made concerning the more extensive use or deployment of collateral and clandestine sources, would considerable strengthen the collection effort by the US intelligence community.
- 5. It is again requested that the CCPC concern itself with this matter, obtaining, if necessary, approval of the DCI.